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To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/27/02 11:04pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I am writing to voice my disgust with the proposed settlement for the Microsoft case. This settlement does not do anything to quell Microsoft's power, and looking at the settlement I can see legal holes the size of Alaska which Microsoft can use to all but ignore this settlement.

Microsoft has unfairly gained a monopoly in the Intel Operating System market, and is currently using illegal and immoral tactics to become the only provider in the browser market, web services, desktop recording software, and other fields.

This trial is based around the browser war between Internet Explorer and Netscape, however the bigger picture is that Microsoft has been abusing its power for years. Even when faced with preliminary injunctions they have laughed in the face of the law and put together a legal team that no company has the power to fight against.

The courts have ruled a few times that Microsoft has a monopoly, and is abusing that power. While I don't know what the answer is, this settlement does nothing against this problem. Splitting Microsoft into many smaller separate companies (IE, OS, Office, and others) might be a place to start.

Now that Microsoft has the market share in web browsers (since the lawsuit was filed, Microsoft has moved from a 50% share in browsers to over 80%), they are trying to use that power to further remove Netscape from the playing field, and Java at the same time. Their newer browsers are moving from the Netscape plug-in applications to a new style, forcing new companies to choose between Netscape and Microsoft, which will further the gap. Microsoft is also steering their browsers away from Java and towards their proprietary .NET platform.

Another downside to the proposed settlement is the time factor. This settlement is only for 5-7 years, while it has already taken over 3 years to come this far. If we are going to go to all the time and expense, let us monitor the company for 15-25 years, and make penalties strong, clear and concise. We should not have to go through another 3 years of trials when (not if) Microsoft violates the settlement, just to give Microsoft a slap on the wrist.

Thank you for your time.

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